

Message Text

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65

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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R 221501Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6729

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 0526

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XM

SUBJECT: MEETING OF LATIN AMERICAN PRESIDENTS IN PANAMA

1. DURING JANUARY 21 INTERVIEW TO PRESENT NEW DCM BOYATT, FONMIN CARVAJAL GAVE AMBASSADOR A RUNDOWN ON RECENT VISIT OF PANAMANIAN VICE PRESIDENT IN CONNECTION WITH "AMPHICTYONIC" MEETING OF LATIN AMERICAN PRESIDENTS, WHICH PANAMA APPARENTLY DESIRES TO SCHEDULE NEXT JUNE.

2. CARVAJAL SAID HE HAD POINTED OUT THAT SUCH A MEETING MIGHT CONFLICT WITH OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WHICH WILL MEET IN SANTIAGO JUNE 10. HE URGED PANAMANIAN VICE PRESIDENT TO SCHEDULE A MEETING OF PRESIDENTS LATER, AS A MORE LOGICAL FOLLOW-ON.

3. CARVAJAL FURTHER ASKED WHETHER US PRESIDENT WOULD BE INVITED. ANSWER WAS NEGATIVE. CARVAJAL EXPRESSED HIS DISTASTE FOR A LATIN AMERICAN VISIT AT WHICH FIDEL CASTRO WOULD BE PRESENT BUT NO REPRESENTATIVE OF US. SAID IT WAS CLEAR PANAMA HAD IN MIND USING MEETING OF PRESIDENTS PRIMARILY AS A SOUNDING BOARD FOR ITS PROPAGANDA ON A NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATY. LIKE OTHER WEST COAST SOUTH AMERICAN STATES, CHILE WAS KEEPLY CONCERNED THAT CANAL CONTINUE TO OPERATE SMOOTHLY AND BE PROTECTED AGAINST SABOTAGE OR OTHER
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OBSTRUCTION. FOR THIS PURPOSE HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT CONTINUED

PRESENCE OF MILITARY FORCES AROUND CANAL WAS ESSENTIAL.

4. SPEAKING MORE BROADLY, CARVAJAL EXPRESSED HIS EXTREME
DISTASTE FOR LATIN AMERICAN MEETINGS WHICH DID NOT INCLUDE
USG. HE SAID CHILE WAS VASTLY UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT SELA,
AND WAS ONLY PARTICIPATING IN IT BECAUSE IT WAS BETTER TO
SERVE AS A MODERATING FORCE THERE THAN TO STAY OUTSIDE.
POPPER

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